

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /111 W
-----082376 061237Z /46

R 060912Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6647
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 05080

USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT
DOE PASS AMMONS, IA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IAEA, TECH, MNUC, PARM, VE, US
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL FOR VENEZUELA RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: CARACAS 4887

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL AGENCY SECRETARIAT SOURCES (INCLUDING NEW U.S. MEMBER OF LEGAL DIVISION) THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH VENEZUELAN TEAM OF LAWYERS (FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, DEFENSE MINISTRY AND CONAN) ON GOV/IAEA NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WENT VERY BADLY AND ACCOMPLISHED VIRTUALLY NOTHING. THEY REPORTEDLY WERE ALMOST AN EXACT REPLAY OF THE "DISCUSSIONS" HELD LAST YEAR ON THE MATTER. AGENCY SECRETARIAT IS CONVINCED THAT THE VENEZUELAN ARE NOT RPT NOT SERIOUS ABOUT CONCLUDING THE AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME, AND CONSEQUENTLY, THEY ARE DELIBERATELY STALLING.
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THE LATEST GO-AROUND WAS MORE IN THE NATURE OF AN EXERCISE DESIGNED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THEY ARE "NEGOTIATING."

2. VENEZUELAN TEAM PROPOSED THAT AGENCY SEND ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM TO CARACAS IN OCTOBER TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THIS WAS TACTFULLY TURNED DOWN BY AGENCY, PRIMARILY ON BUDGETARY GROUNDS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE AGENCY

NORMALLY CONDUCTS SUCH NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA AND DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO START SENDING NEGOTIATING TEAMS TO CAPITALS FOR THIS PURPOSE. FYI. SUSPECT GOV APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENT WAS ALSO A MAJOR FACTOR IN AGENCY'S RESPONSE. END FYI.

3. COMMENT: WE FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE APPARENT DIVERGENT VIEWS BETWEEN PRESIDENT PEREZ AND THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED ON THIS ISSUE, BUT PERHAPS IT IS SIMPLY DUE TO OUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE IN VENEZUELA. END COMMENT. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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